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25 February 1991
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LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, Leader of the Great Revolution of 1 September.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali A. TREIKI
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 23 February 1991 from the Leader of the Great Revolution of 1 September addressed to the President of the Security Council

Iraq is being subjected to a deliberate process of humiliation. It has become clear that the intention behind what is now taking place is not the recovery of Kuwait at all, nor is this operation being conducted in accordance with any of the Security Council resolutions.

What is occurring is an operation designed to debase the Arab community - through Iraq - in the eyes of the world. Iraq has decided to withdraw from Kuwait: whether within a week or two weeks, it is a matter of a few days. There can be no doubt that peace is more valuable than this.

We have patiently endured the occupation of Kuwait for months. Why should we not be patient for a few days in order to save peace and the future?

Even if the West does inflict its humiliation on the Arabs through Iraq, and even if Iraq is defeated, the result will be the collapse of the United Nations, just as the League of Nations collapsed. Bitter enmity will also be sown between West and East, and particularly Arabs and Muslims. The price will be a future loss greater than any temporary victory over Iraq and the Arab community.

These are historic moments in which we must exercise self-restraint in recognition of our responsibility to peoples and our responsibility to ensure a future free of revenge, hatred, the exchange of hostilities and their legacy.

Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait: this is an achievement for international legitimacy. Bloodshed can be prevented, and it is possible to maintain the prestige of the United Nations rather than to kill it off.

All that is lacking is self-restraint in these decisive moments.

We call upon the United Nations and the Security Council - and any civilized peoples - to allow a historic opportunity for reason and law to prevail and for the Security Council alone to determine the way in which steps may be taken to attain a solution which preserves the honour of all. The most important consideration is to preserve peace and to prevent bloodshed.

I am convinced that the problem of Kuwait is over, but Iraq has no choice other than to defend its dignity and the dignity of the Arab community, whatever the price. Libya places itself at the disposal of the United Nations to play the courageous role from which all others have shrunk.

Colonel Muammar QADDAFI

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LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement by the Soviet Government concerning the start of ground operations in the Persian Gulf region.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

Statement by the Soviet Government

United States President George Bush announced at dawn on 24 February that he had ordered the start of ground operations against Iraq.

The instinct to rely on a military solution prevailed, despite the fact that Iraq's agreement to withdraw its forces from Kuwait in keeping with United Nations Security Council resolution 660 (1990) had created a basically new situation, clearing the way to channelling the Gulf conflict towards a political settlement. As is known, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told a news conference in Moscow on 23 February that the Iraqi leadership was prepared to withdraw all its forces immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait to the positions in which they were located on 1 August 1990.

The Soviet Union, which had done much to impel Iraq to take that step, urged the international community to take advantage of the opportunity to prevent the conflict from escalating into a still more acute and bloodier phase. In the course of 23 February, the Soviet President had telephone conversations with the leaders of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Syria, Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Before that, the Soviet President had sent personal messages to the Heads of State and Government of all countries members of the Security Council, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, briefing them on the results of the latest round of talks with Tariq Aziz in Moscow, which produced qualitative shifts in Iraq's position. The Governments of Arab States were informed of the steps we were taking. The Soviet representative to the United Nations took steps aimed at convening an emergency meeting of the Security Council to examine on an urgent basis the situation that had arisen, set the date for the start of the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and resolve the issue of confirming, verifying and monitoring the cease-fire and the troop withdrawal.

The Soviet Union expresses regret that a very real chance of securing a peaceful outcome to the conflict and achieving the objectives set by the Security Council resolutions without further casualties and destruction has been missed.

The differences between the formulas accepted by Iraq and the proposals by a number of other countries were slight, and lent themselves to resolution in the Security Council framework within a day or two. It is still not too late to do this. The Security Council, which is now meeting, should get down to examining without delay the new situation that has taken shape.

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LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communiqué issued on 24 February 1991 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia following the start of the ground offensive in the Gulf region.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed GHEZAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Communiqué issued on 24 February 1991 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia following the start of the gound offensive in the Gulf region

The Tunisian Government has reacted with strong disapproval and great disappointment to the loss of the new opportunities for peace and the insistence on escalating the war against Iraq by launching a ground offensive despite that country's acceptance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 660 (1990).

It reaffirms Tunisia's total solidarity with and profound sympathy for the fraternal people of Iraq, who are being subjected to the ongoing and wholesale destruction of their human and material potential.

In the face of this serious deterioration in the situation, which is detrimental to the inviolability and destiny of the Arab nation and threatens world peace and security, Tunisia appeals to the conscience of the world and to all peace-loving forces to work to halt the hostilities and put an end to this terrible tragedy.

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LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maseru, on 25 February 1991 regarding the Gulf crisis.

I would be grateful if you would kindly have this press release circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. P. PHOOFOLO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Lesotho on 25 February 1991 regarding the Gulf crisis

The Government of Lesotho is gravely concerned about the non-observance by Iraq of the deadline for unconditional and complete withdrawal from Kuwait, as set by the multilateral coalition, operating under the mandate of the United Nations Security Council. The Lesotho Government is equally concerned that the initiative by President Gorbachev to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait has not been crowned with success.

Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, the Government of Lesotho has joined the peace-loving community of nations in repeatedly and consistently calling on Iraq to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council, to withdraw from Kuwait and to allow the long-suffering people of the country to regain their sovereign nationhood and to rebuild their country.

The Government of Lesotho now urges President Saddam Hussein to comply immediately with the Security Council resolutions in order to avert any more unnecessary suffering and hardship by the people of Iraq and Kuwait. Unconditional implementation of the Security Council resolutions is the only guaranteed means by which peace and security can be restored in the Gulf region.